

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from
the general public on any subject—political,
religious, educational, or social—
as long as they do not contain any personal
attacks.All communications must be accompanied
by the writer's name, not necessarily
for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.Advertisements for insertion in the current
week must be in hand not later than
Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1904.

VOTE IT DOWN.

In the course of a few days the people of this town will go to the polls and vote "for" or "against" annexation of this town to Newark. The right course for the people to take is to vote this particular annexation scheme down and rebuke the schemers with such force that no more "strictly confidential" cliques will have the assurance to presume that they carry the destinies of the town in their side pocket.

The reasons why the people should vote down the annexation scheme are:

First, it is purely a purely a political scheme. David G. Garabrant, the author and agitator of the scheme, launched it after a political plan that he had in hand fell to pieces. Mr. Garabrant had set his mind on having John A. Lawrence for candidate for Councilman-at-Large and James H. Moore for First Ward Councilman. These men were to be Republican party candidates. The object of these nominations was political control of town affairs. Messrs. Lawrence and Moore declined to be candidates, and then it was that Mr. Garabrant launched his annexation scheme. If Messrs. Lawrence and Moore had consented to be Mr. Garabrant's candidates there would have been no annexation scheme launched.

In the face of this most transparent political move Mr. Garabrant has the assurance to come before the people and assert that there is no politics in his annexation scheme. The fact is that it is politics from beginning to end.

The second reason why this particular annexation scheme of Mr. Garabrant's should be voted down is because of its "strictly confidential" character. There was a plot. First it concerned local politics alone, and if that miscarried then annexation was to be proclaimed.

The annexation of this town to Newark, or to any other town, is a matter that concerns every citizen of Bloomfield equally as much as it does Mr. Garabrant, and every citizen has an equal right with Mr. Garabrant to a voice in the matter. Such impudent assurance as has been shown by Mr. Garabrant and his eleven colleagues who voted with him for annexation without a referendum, is beyond comprehension.

Does Mr. Garabrant consider the great mass of the people whose material welfare is effected by the proposed change undeserving of consideration. It is said that the sentiment of the twelve men who voted for annexation without a referendum was aptly expressed by one of them, when he said what is the use of submitting this matter to people who can be bought for thirty cents.

This annexation scheme of Mr. Garabrant's is a deliberate insult to the people of Bloomfield, and the insult should be resented at the polls.

A third reason why this annexation plot should be voted down is on account of the deceptive course pursued by the plotters. Many of the people who were invited to the "strictly confidential" meeting had no knowledge that they were being led into an annexation trap. When the trap was sprung and a storm of public indignation followed, a special Board of Trade meeting was called and an attempt made to show that those people who had gone out from the meeting and declared that it had been determined to introduce an annexation bill without a referendum, were giving a wrong impression. At the Board of Trade meeting some of those who had voted against referendum at the "strictly confidential" meeting stood up in favor of referendum, thus attempting to throw dust in the eyes of the public as to their real position.

At Trenton it had been made to

appear that the annexation bill was a popular manifestation of public opinion. The deceitfulness attached to this annexation movement justifies an overwhelming repudiation of it at the polls.

A fourth reason why the people should vote down Mr. Garabrant's annexation scheme is the weak foundation on which it rests. It appears that Mayor Doremus of Newark and Mr. Garabrant had a conference over this matter of annexation, and that the Mayor made many glittering promises as to what he would use his influence to have the officials do for Bloomfield. In short, the Mayor gave Mr. Garabrant to understand that Bloomfield would be used as an advertising card to draw the Oranges and Montclair into Newark. Bloomfield's High School was to be retained and Newark's Excise Board was to pursue the same policy here in regard to saloon licenses that is now in force. Mr. Garabrant knows, and all the people of Bloomfield know, that however much Mayor Doremus may promise, he cannot deliver the goods. Mr. Garabrant would not accept such promises as a basis of action in his private business, and it is strange that he urges their acceptance upon the public. The fact is that the Board of Works in Newark, and not the Mayor, is the controlling factor in carrying out public improvements. The Board of Education, and not the Mayor, has control of the schools. The Board of Excise, and not the Mayor, passes upon saloon licenses, and the mere possibility of annexation to Newark has started a number of saloon projects under way here. If Mayor Doremus is desirous of an advertising card let him use that section of the city of Newark between the canal bridge and the city line for that purpose. The present appearance of that section of the city as viewed from trolley car windows by hundreds of Bloomfield people is an example of the poverty of pride, the incapacity and the indifference and negligence of the city officials with regard to the appearance of the city. A look at North Roseville affords one of the strongest reasonings to Bloomfielders to keep out of Newark, and also affords a practical argument in favor of voting down annexation.

A fifth reason why Mr. Garabrant's annexation scheme should be voted down is on account of the humiliating position in which it places Bloomfield as party to the transaction. If Newark wants Bloomfield let the overtures for annexation come from Newark. Mr. Garabrant proposes to lug us into Newark and present us to that city as a ward of charity. Bankrupt in pocket and mentally incapacitated for government. The city is to be our guardian. Is there any one so simple as to suppose that this will not be flung back at us when we complain, as we certainly shall do, of governmental neglect. The people of Bloomfield will make the greatest municipal blunder that could possibly be made if they become annexed to Newark through a movement engineered by one or a dozen citizens of this town. The fact that this movement was started in a wrong and underhanded way, and that it started at the wrong end, affords indisputable ground for voting it down at the polls.

If political control is passing away from hands that have been in power, let it go. There are others in town who can govern as well, and certainly no worse than those long in control. Let the light shine on all "strictly confidential" plotters and dark and devious ways be exposed. Let the common people in on the ground floor when their welfare is a matter for discussion.

Look at Newark as you see it on the outskirts and not as Mr. Garabrant and Mayor Doremus picture it. Don't be led on to Newark as a ward in charity and a supplicant for guardianship. When annexation comes, let it come in an open, honorable way and upon terms that reflect no disrespect upon the negotiators on either side, and go to the polls on election day and vote down every annexation scheme that is not based upon fair and honorable terms.

Guild Concert.

The closing entertainment in the First Presbyterian Church Guild Course will be given Monday evening, and will be a concert by the following artists: Miss Anita Rio, soprano; Mrs. Florence Mulford Hunt, contralto; Dr. Ion Jackson, tenor; Dr. Carl E. Duff, baritone, and Mr. Frederick W. Schlieder, pianist.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Jensen gave a birthday party Thursday night in honor of their daughter Minnie.

The remains of Mrs. Martha Aker's were interred in the Unangst family plot in the local cemetery Thursday afternoon.

The Water Question.

David G. Garabrant, in his promotion of his annexation scheme, is endeavoring to work up a scare on the water question, both as to the cost of water and the source of supply.

Now as to the cost of water: The city of East Orange was confronted with the same problem as the people of this town were confronted with, and the people of East Orange decided the question in precisely the same manner as the people of this town decided it, namely, by purchase of the water plant. Municipal ownership has been in effect in East Orange upwards of a year. The first year, contrary to expectation, a profit was shown in the year's business. Men formerly in the employ of the Orange Water Company, fully acquainted with the conditions here, say there is no reason why Bloomfield should not be as successful as East Orange in managing a water supply plant.

As to the source of supply, according to Mr. Garabrant, it is either Newark or the Passaic river water. Dr. W. F. Harrison, Chairman of the Water Committee of the Town Council, says that Mr. Garabrant is mistaken, and is not correctly representing the situation to the people. The Water Committee has offers from four sources offering to supply the water, and neither the city of Newark or the East Jersey Water Company is among them. One of the best offers is from President William Caldwell of the East Orange City Council, and the one that is most likely to be arranged for, and it is possible that the superintendence of the local water plant by the East Orange Superintendent and workmen may be arranged for on a favorable basis, and the cost of maintenance reduced to a minimum. There is no need of getting scared over the water supply question. The matter is in good hands, and Mr. Garabrant and others could work to the better advantage of the town and themselves by co-operating with the officials, rather than putting obstacles in the way of accomplishment of honest effort.

Road Repairs.

A letter from Theodore H. Ward in this issue of the CITIZEN treats on the matter of road repairs, and Mr. Ward believes that the question of road repairs affords a reason for annexation to Newark. Mr. Ward is well aware of the fact that here in Bloomfield some effort is made in the way of road repairs, and that some of our stone roads are good and some are in medium condition, and thus far they have not got below the medium stage. The cost of the repairs is a matter of general tax. In Newark there are to-day miles of mud roads that are in as bad condition as the poorest roads in this town. The city will pave such streets with cobble stones some day and assess the cost on the property benefited. The cobble stones will be replaced with granite blocks, brick or asphalt, and the cost again assessed on the property benefited. Under Newark rule road repairs defrayed by general tax will be a thing of the past.



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SECOND

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CONCERT

Thursday Evening, April 7th,

At 8.15 o'clock.

Jarvie Memorial Hall,

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MISS FLORENCE STOCKWELL,

Contralto.

THE BANNER-KRONOLD

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MR. WARD STEPHENS,

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If you were prevented from attending the March concert you missed a rare treat. Don't miss this one! We promised a first class entertainment; did we keep our promise? Ask any one of the 300 persons who were present on March 8th.

Remember the date,

APRIL 7th.

ADMISSION. - 75 Cents.

Tickets for sale at Geo. M. Wood's druggist, at the Library, and at the door on the evening of the concert.

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